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AUTHOR	Neven, Ruth Schmidt
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ABSTRACT

Rearing children is life's most important job, yet parents often have little training or preparation for this awesome responsibility. Thus, different perspectives of important emotional milestones of development for children, parents, and families, are covered in this text. It introduces a psychodynamic perspective which focuses on the meaning of behavior and on understanding how children grow in a relationship with their important caregivers. The text, based on professional experience, is intended to be user-friendly and is divided into three parts. Part 1, A Psychodynamic Approach, defines this counseling approach and reviews the psychodynamic heritage. Development is covered in part 2 and is sectioned by birth and early infancy; toddlerhood and early childhood; children in child care and kindergarten; early childhood and the transition to school; sibling relationships and peer relationships; the middle years of childhood from 5 to 12; the developing child and the social world; the development of gender and sexual identity within the family; and adolescence. Part 3 explores ways to rear children in a changing world and focuses on the impact of separation and divorce. Each chapter opens with a summary of key points. A glossary, which offers definitions of certain psychodynamic concepts, appears in the back. (RJM)

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